



Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

MARILYN MAY
Clerk of Court

State of Alaska

303 K Street
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501-2084
(907) 264-0612

MEREDITH L. MONTGOMERY
Chief Deputy Clerk

October 8, 2019

James M. Hackett
Law Office of James M. Hackett
401 Eleventh Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Wendy Dau
Fairbanks North Star Borough
P.O. Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Re: *Beverly J. Sumpter v. Fairbanks North Star Borough School District*
Supreme Court Case No. 17589

Dear Mr. Hackett and Ms. Dau:

Justice Winfree has asked me to notify the parties of the following information.

First, he is a resident of Fairbanks and a payer of property taxes to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which funds, in part, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Second, his wife's brother, John Ringstad, is a registered lobbyist representing the North Star Borough School District's interests before the Alaska Legislature.

Justice Winfree presently intends to participate in this case, having preliminarily concluded that despite the foregoing information, his impartiality would not reasonably be questioned. *See* Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3.E.(1). However, at this point Justice Winfree is not aware of all facts and circumstances of this case and may be unaware of specific reasons that his impartiality might be called

into question. Accordingly, he requests your positions on the matter. *See* Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3.F.

Any objection to Justice Winfree's participation in this case must be filed by **October 22, 2019**, with specific references to facts and legal authorities supporting his recusal.

Sincerely,

Ryan Montgomery - Sythe
Ryan Montgomery-Sythe